

1 CLAIMS

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3 1. Apparatus capable of indicating when the contents of
4 a medical bag reach a certain level, the apparatus
5 comprising indicator means and a first and second
6 component, wherein the first component has
7 attachment means for holding the medical bag and is
8 adapted to move relative to the second component as
9 the contents of the medical bag change, wherein
10 movement of the first component activates the
11 indicator means.

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13 2. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the medical
14 bag is a catheter bag or drip bag.

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16 3. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
17 Claims, wherein the first and second components are
18 hollow tubulars.

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20 4. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
21 Claims, wherein as the volume of the contents of the
22 medical bag changes, the first component moves in a
23 substantially vertical direction relative to the
24 second component.

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26 5. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
27 Claims, manufactured from metal.

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29 6. Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4,
30 manufactured from a plastic material.

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32 7. Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5,
33 manufactured from stainless steel.

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2 8. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
3 Claims, wherein the first and second components are
4 arranged such that the first component is positioned
5 above and engages with the second component.

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7 9. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
8 Claims, wherein the lowermost region of the first
9 component is positioned substantially within the
10 uppermost region of the second component.

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12 10. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
13 Claims, wherein the diameter of at least the
14 lowermost region of the first component is smaller
15 than the diameter of at least the uppermost region
16 of the second component.

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18 11. Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8,
19 wherein the lowermost region of the first component
20 is positioned substantially over the uppermost
21 region of the second component.

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23 12. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the
24 diameter of at least the lowermost region of the
25 first component is larger than the diameter of at
26 least the uppermost region of the second component.

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28 13. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
29 Claims, wherein a compression spring is located
30 within the second component.

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32 14. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the first
33 component makes contact with the compression spring.

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2 15. Apparatus as claimed in Claims 13 to 14, wherein the
3 first component sits on the compression spring.
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5 16. Apparatus as claimed in Claims 13 to 15, wherein the
6 compression spring is calibrated.
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8 17. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
9 Claims, wherein one of either the first or second
10 component contains a magnetic array.
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12 18. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the other
13 of the first or second component contains a magnetic
14 detector or sensor.
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16 19. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the
17 magnetic detector or sensor is a read switch.
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19 20. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
20 Claims, wherein the indicator means is activated
21 when the magnetic detector or sensor comes into
22 proximity with the magnetic array.
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24 21. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
25 Claims, wherein the indicator means comprises one or
26 more indicator lights.
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28 22. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
29 Claims, wherein the indicator means comprises an
30 audible signal.
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32 23. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
33 Claims, wherein the magnetic detector or sensor and

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- 1 magnetic array are brought into proximity with each
2 other as the bag fills.
3
- 4 24. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
5 Claims, wherein as the medical bag fills, the weight
6 of the bag moves the first component in a
7 substantially downward direction on the compression
8 spring located in the second component, causing the
9 magnetic detector or sensor and magnetic array to be
10 brought into proximity with each other.
11
- 12 25. Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 22,
13 wherein the magnetic detector or sensor and magnetic
14 array are brought into proximity with each other as
15 the bag empties.
16
- 17 26. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein as the
18 medical bag empties, the reduction in weight of the
19 medical bag moves the first component in a
20 substantially upward direction on the compression
21 spring located in the second component, causing the
22 magnetic detector or sensor and magnetic array to be
23 brought into proximity with each other.
24
- 25 27. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
26 Claims, wherein the indicator means is battery
27 operated.
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- 29 28. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
30 Claims, wherein the indicator means is located on
31 one of the upper or lower components.
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- 1 29. Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 27,
2 wherein the indicator means is located on both of
3 the upper and lower components.
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- 5 30. Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 27,
6 wherein the indicator means is located in a remote
7 location to the apparatus.
8
- 9 31. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
10 Claims, comprising a third tubular component.
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- 12 32. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the
13 indicator means is located on the third tubular
14 component.
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- 16 33. Apparatus as claimed in Claims 31 to 32, wherein the
17 third tubular component has battery access.
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- 19 34. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
20 Claims which is free standing.
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- 22 35. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
23 Claims, wherein the lower component has a base.
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- 25 36. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 35, wherein the base
26 has a plurality of feet.

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